

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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**LETTER DATED 31 DECEMBER 2001 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND THE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA TO THE CONFERENCE
ON DISARMAMENT, ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL
OF THE CONFERENCE TRANSMITTING THE RUSSIAN AND CHINESE
TEXTS OF THE JOINT PRESS RELEASE ON THE RUSSIAN-CHINESE
INTERAGENCY CONSULTATIONS ON STRATEGIC STABILITY
(MOSCOW, 17 DECEMBER 2001)**

We have the honour to forward to you the Russian and Chinese texts of the joint press release on the Russian-Chinese interagency consultations on strategic stability, held on 17 December 2001, in Moscow.

We would be grateful if the joint statement could be issued and circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Leonid SKOTNIKOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of
the Russian Federation to the
Conference on Disarmament

(Signed): HU Xiaodi
Ambassador
Head of Delegation of the
People's Republic of China to the
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**Joint press release on the Sino-Russian interagency consultations
on strategic stability**

The latest round of Sino-Russian interagency consultations on strategic stability were held in Moscow on 17 December 2001. The Chinese delegation was headed by Wang Guanya, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, and the Russian delegation by Georgy Mamedov, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

The two sides gave special attention to the situation resulting from the announcement by the United States of America of its unilateral withdrawal from the ABM Treaty. In their telephone conversation on 13 December 2001, Jiang Zemin, President of the People's Republic of China, and Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, stressed that they held identical views on the consequences of this step by the United States.

During their consultations, the two sides spoke in favour of the further coordination of foreign policy efforts to avert the destabilization of the international situation and to continue their steadfast endeavours to set in place a reliable strategic stability system based on international legal mechanisms.

The two sides underscored the utmost importance, in the currently evolving situation, of safeguarding the international arms control and disarmament system for the maintenance of peace and international security, which is the common responsibility of the international community. They drew attention to the need to continue the Russian-American dialogue and for the speedy development of a new framework for strategic relations. This new framework should be based on the consideration of mutual interests and the interests of all other countries, including the earliest possible conclusion by the Russian Federation and the United States of America of a legally binding agreement on further radical, verifiable and irreversible reductions of strategic offensive arms.

During their meeting, the two sides held a thorough exchange of views on a wide range of issues relating to non-proliferation, prevention of an arms race in outer space and the implementation of international arms controls agreements.

The two sides agreed to hold a further round of strategic stability consultations in the near future.

17 December 2001
